



**sermon  
notes**

**Fathers Day Service 1.9.24 -  
Joseph - The Stepfather of Jesus**

Luke 2:52 (AMP) - *"And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and men."*

Question: Where did Jesus learn these qualities?

Answer: From Joseph, His earthly stepfather.

*Things we learn about Joseph:*

**1. Joseph's Presence in Scripture**

- Joseph has a minimal presence in scripture, yet his influence is profound.
- Despite his limited mention, we can infer much about his character and fatherhood.

**2. Joseph's Internal Struggles and Decisions**

Matthew 1:19 (TPT): *"Her fiancé, Joseph, was a righteous man full of integrity and he didn't want to disgrace her, but when he learned of her pregnancy he secretly planned to break the engagement."*

- Joseph's Dilemma: He found himself unexpectedly in the role of a father and faced significant decisions.

Character Traits: The following traits helped navigate his dilemma.

- *Righteousness and integrity:* Joseph was a kind and gentle man, choosing not to disgrace Mary publicly. Integrity - Values we live our life by. Doing these when no one is looking.
- *Emotional Maturity:* He processed his emotions and moral dilemmas thoughtfully rather than reacting impulsively.
- Application: We can often face moral dilemmas and can learn from Joseph's example of measured, thoughtful decision-making.

**3. Joseph's Faith and Obedience**

- Head of the Home: Joseph demonstrated exceptional faith and obedience as the head of his family.
- Consistent and Disciplined: His actions showed a commitment to God's law and the spiritual welfare of his family.

Luke 2:39 (AMP): *"When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required of them by the Law of the Lord, they took Jesus and returned to their home in Nazareth in Galilee."*

#### **4. Joseph's Role in Family Spiritual Life**

- Concern for Spiritual Welfare - Luke 2:41-42 (AMP): *"Every year Jesus' parents went to worship at Jerusalem during the Passover festival. When Jesus turned twelve, his parents took him to Jerusalem to observe the Passover, as was their custom."*

- Joseph ensured his family observed spiritual customs, reflecting his concern for their spiritual growth.

##### - Building a Godly Family Culture

- Definition of Family Culture: Craig Groeschel describes culture as "what you intentionally create, or what you allow."

- Godly Family Culture: A blend of family personality and spiritual values.

- Application: A Godly family culture centres around Kingdom values, influencing how holidays, education, and daily life are conducted.

#### ***What spiritual customs have you established in your home?***

#### **5. Joseph's Acceptance of His Role in God's Plan**

- Stepping Up: Joseph accepted his unexpected role in God's plan and became a father to Jesus.

- Ordinary Yet Extraordinary: He was a normal, practical man who stepped up rather than running away.

- Application: Like Joseph, many men today are ordinary individuals facing life's challenges, but God's call can transform them into extraordinary role models.

#### **Conclusion:**

- Joseph's life provides a blueprint for godly fatherhood and leadership within the home.

- He shows that even in ordinary circumstances, with faith and obedience, one can fulfil God's extraordinary purposes.

#### **Group discussion questions:**

1. How can we apply Joseph's example of emotional maturity in our decision-making?
2. What steps can we take to build and maintain a Godly family culture?
3. How do you respond when God interrupts your life with an unexpected calling?
4. Fatherhood is the first glimpse our children have of a Heavenly Father.  
*What sort of character traits do you think this would look like?*

***\*\* Pray over each family unit represented that His Kingdom would be evident over each person. That the heart of the Father would be revealed to all. \*\****